JIM DOYLE GOVERNOR



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Governor Doyle Announces Emergency Funding for Richland and Vernon Counties

Funds Will Help Families Rebuild Homes Damaged by the Recent Tornado

Governor Jim Doyle today announced today that Richland and Vernon Counties will receive an \$821,810 grant from the Department of Commerce to help the low- and moderate-income residents recover from a tornado that devastated these two counties on August 18, 2005.

"I'm pleased that the state could help two counties hard-hit by the recent tornado," Governor Doyle said. "In the wake of the decision by the federal government to deny Wisconsin disaster assistance, this funding is even more critical to help rebuild the homes, and lives, of families displaced by this disaster."

The tornado struck the Village of Viola and six townships in Richland and Vernon Counties. A total of 58 homes occupied by low-and moderate-income residents sustained damage. Many of these homes were underinsured or not insured. The counties will use the emergency funds to help these residents repair or replace their homes.

Commerce administers the federally funded Community Development Block Grant – Emergency Assistance Grant Program. The program helps communities with a population less than 50,000 that are faced with sudden catastrophic events with devastating economic impact. For more information about this program, contact Caryn Stone at the Department of Commerce, 608-267-3682.